

23 September 2009

## Letter to All Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian

Please find attached a hard copy of our information booklet revised for 2009-10 which we have also published in PDF format on our website [www.deerparkschool.net](http://www.deerparkschool.net). We hope you will find this useful and that it will go some way to answering any questions that you may have.

We are very pleased with the impression our pupils have made on us since the start of the new term and on our visitors over our two Open Mornings this week. The atmosphere around the school has been purposeful and productive and the June start has clearly had a positive impact. This is most noticeable in Year 10, where our former Year 9 pupils have definitely benefited from the head start they have been given. Our new Year 7 pupils have also settled in quickly.

As the information booklet explains, we review our School Standards every three years and this will be a focus for our School Council and the community of the School this year. Guidance regarding our School uniform is set out clearly on Page 6 and is also printed in the pupils' log books. We expect all of our pupils to wear their uniform correctly. I remind you that pupils should wear a Deer Park sweatshirt over their School polo shirt and that cardigans, v neck tops or hoodies are not acceptable and if worn will be confiscated. Similar rules will apply to trainers and inappropriate jewellery. We do not allow any facial piercings or earrings which stretch the ear. Persistent breaches of School uniform will be dealt with as defiance and action will be taken in line with our behaviour policy.

As you will be aware pupils with good attendance achieve significantly better outcomes than those whose attendance is poor. We appreciate that many of you are very good at informing us when your child is absent from School, however, sometimes we do not know why they are absent. We have recently introduced a new system which automatically contacts you if your child is not marked present at School each morning which we are calling 'Absence Alert!' I advise you therefore that you may receive an automated telephone call to any of your home, mobile or work telephone numbers and these are repeated hourly until the new system receives a reply. You can then respond and advise the School of the reason why your child is absent or speak to the School if you believe your child is present. If you have any concerns about this system or want to check your contact numbers please contact the relevant member of our pastoral team.

We also now have the facility to text and e-mail parents with important messages such as news of an enforced School closure or reminders about Parents' Evenings. As we do not currently hold email addresses, if you would like to receive e-mail messages of this nature please email us at [pupildata@deerparkschool.net](mailto:pupildata@deerparkschool.net) with your child's name in the e-mail title. We will then record the e-mail address that the message was sent from and send you occasional e-mails to this address.

During the course of the year we will often take photographs or make videos to record activities and celebrate achievements. To help us, we would appreciate it if you could let us know in writing if you do not wish your son or daughter to appear in these.

We hope to see you at our Parents' Evenings and at School events. This year's production of 'Fame' in November promises to be very exciting.

Yours sincerely

Chiquita Henson  
**Headteacher**

Enc